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by prejudice. Equally ready to adopt the suggestions of others, as he was those of his own judgment, he never deviated from the point aimed at, because the whole of the path was not traced out by himself. Superior to such considerations, which never prevail in exalted minds, he rested his character on higher grounds, and the discerning part of mankind soon became sensible, that such acquiescence, when it met his own unprejudiced ideas, was an honour to his character. Candour and benevolence were the guides of his conduct, and led him to esteem and reputation in the present world, softened his passage to the tomb, and in his last moments, disarmed the dart of death. Original, however, in his ideas, he was better suited to point out the way, than to follow the speculations of others; and what he advised, obtained a kind of involuntary preference, which nothing but a consciousness of merit in the adviser could have secured. His counsels, though destitute of the recommendation of peremptory assertion, or lavish display of pretended success, which sometimes over-power, when they do not convince, carried with them the more powerful charms of sense, judgment, reflection, and acquaintance with the subject, and were accompanied with a most amiable and satisfactory manner of manifesting these admirable qualifications to the understanding of those with whom he conversed. Nor did pain and sickness, however embittering they were to the enjoyment of life, cloud his faculties, or disorder his temper. He resigned life with the same benevolent disposition of mind in which he had lived, and with undiminished powers of understanding. The faculties of his mind were not, however, confined to professional subjects. Well versed in elegant knowledge, he continued the pursuits of ornamental literature with those of

the severer studies. Poetry, history, and other branches of knowledge that improve the understanding, and animate the mind to exert itself in every capacity, were held by him in high esteem, and were favourite objects of his attention. On these models, selected from the best authors, he formed his own style of writing, which was pure, elegant, and correct; and often adorned with passages which, in beauty of language, and delicacy and propriety of sentiment, yield to none of which our country can boast. The lovers of science might wish his life to have been longer protracted: in which wish all the friends of the country, who knew him, would willingly join; but wiser Fate says No: and Reflection steps in and warns us, that "his warfare is accomplished;" and that we must not, from partial, or interested, or indeed any human considerations, presume to wish the prolongation of suffering to him, who had so long, and so eminently struggled with pain and misery; and in the midst of these painful exertions, uniformly laboured for the benefit of mankind."

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#### MEMOIRS OF MRS. LINDSEY.

**I**N the Memoirs of the Rev. Theophilus Lindsey, published in No. 5, page 360, of the Belfast Monthly Magazine, frequent mention was made of the warm co-operation of his excellent wife in all his plans. She possessed an uncommonly active and energetic mind, and it has been justly said of her, that her masculine mind understood, and was in unison with the principles of her husband. Unfortunately, the present mode of female education has tended to make women so trifling, and so unfit for serious studies, that few are equal to Mrs. Lindsey. How many, as Shakespear emphatically says, are content "to wear out their lives in

shapeless idleness." Indeed, if a female wishes to improve her mind, she has generally to bear to be laughed at by her acquaintance of both sexes; they call her pedantic, and by the force of ridicule, which few can bear, they sometimes succeed in dissuading her from the laudable attempt to rise superior to the insipid triflers, both male and female, who like butterflies pass through life on the wing, and are only admired for the beauty of their plumage. An attentive perusal of the lives of Mrs. Lindsey, and other distinguished women\*, whose talents, directed to noble purposes, cause them to be remembered with veneration and reverence by all the friends to virtue, proves that females are capable of noble attainments, if they are careful to instruct themselves.

The following account of Mrs. Lindsey, written by Catharine Cappa, is extracted from the *Repository of Theology and General Literature*.

I wish I were more equal to the task allotted me, of giving, to such of your readers as it may interest, some idea of the character of my late high-valued friend, MRS. LINDSEY, of Essex-street. Frequent personal intercourse in the early part of life, added to a confidential correspondence for more than half a century, may be supposed to have supplied ample materials, and in fact it has supplied them; my diffidence arises not from any defect of this sort, but from the difficulty of selecting from the long series of past events that crowd upon my recollection, a few

of the most striking, and of compressing the relation to be given of them within small compass. It would be easy for me to descant upon her talents and her virtues; the activity, ability, and zeal, with which she unweariedly pursued whatever might promote the general cause of scriptural truth and virtue, increase the happiness, or alleviate the distress of suffering individuals. But indiscriminate panegyric is not my object; far would she herself have been from desiring it; "Pray for me," was her constant language, "that the many failings and defects of a too irritable nervous system, may finally be subdued and corrected."

Mrs. Lindsey's father, Mr. Elsworth, of Richmond, in Yorkshire, died in early life, leaving a widow and two daughters; Hannah, the elder of whom, and the subject of this memoir, was born in August, 1740. Elizabeth, the younger, a most lovely, amiable girl, died at the age of thirteen years. Whilst her children were yet young, Mrs. Elsworth married the late very eminent Archdeacon Blackburne, the near neighbour and friend of my father, who was Mr. Lindsey's predecessor in the living of Catterick. Hence our early connection, and hence also, probably, in consequence of this marriage, those early associations were formed in the originally superior mind of Miss Elsworth, which powerfully tended to its expansion and vigour, and to fit her for the important station in after life she was destined so eminently to fill. As it is edifying, where it can be done, to trace the several minute circumstances which lead, in their consequences, to events most important to the individual, and to others in various ways connected; proving to demonstration, that nothing happens by chance, and thus to obtain a transient glimpse of

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\* Lucy Aikin, in her "Epistles on Women," a book highly deserving of attentive perusal, has nobly advocated the cause of her sex, and has succeeded in proving that there is no mental inferiority in the female sex, if they cultivate their understandings, and do not neglect the heart, by attending too much to superficial accomplishments.

that more glorious development of divine wisdom and goodness which will be displayed when the great volume of Providence shall be more clearly unfolded; I shall mention the following apparently trifling anecdote.

There lived in the neighbourhood of Catterick, a very excellent old lady, who had originally been the companion and humble friend of the eminently pious Lady Betty Hastings, formerly well known in a large and extensive neighbourhood in the West Riding of this county, for her numerous charities, and whose younger sister, Lady Anne Hastings, was Mr. Lindsey's earliest patroness. He was on a visit at her house, where my mother accidentally met him. He had read with great interest some of the Archdeacon's celebrated publications, and finding my mother was acquainted with the family, asked her many questions respecting it; and she happened incidentally to mention, among other particulars, that Mrs. Blackburne had a daughter by a former marriage of uncommon talents. The thought immediately struck Mr. Lindsey, as he afterwards told my mother, that a young person so endowed and so educated, would be a most desirable companion for life; he did not, however, at that time make any acquaintance in the Archdeacon's family, but went soon after to reside in Dorsetshire, on a living given him by the late Lord Huntington. He corresponded after this, for some time, with the Rev. Daniel Watson, who was warmly patronized by the late Bishop Law, and had afterwards the living of Middleton Tyas, in Yorkshire. Mr. Watson, in one of his letters, speaking of a visit he had lately made at Richmond, happened to mention Miss Elsworth, as possessing uncommon talents; and this

little circumstance confirming the prejudice in her favour, made upon his mind by the accidental conversation already mentioned some years before, he wrote immediately to inquire of Mr. Watson, (who was at that time the tutor of my brother, and resident in our family,) if he knew whether the young lady was disengaged, and in consequence of Mr. Watson's reply, Mr. Lindsey came to Richmond; and on a second visit, in the latter end of that summer, on the 29th of September, 1760, the marriage took place, Mrs. Lindsey having just completed her 20th year. How little was it then foreseen, that a sense of duty would at length compel Mr. Lindsey to make a sacrifice, which not only required his own utmost fortitude, but the aid and assistance likewise of such a coadjutor!

They continued to reside in Dorsetshire three years; when Mr. Lindsey obtained an exchange of the living he then possessed, for that of Catterick; not with any view to greater emolument, but solely from the desire of being nearer Richmond.

At Catterick, in the following year, I had the happiness of being first introduced to Mr. Lindsey. Residing with my mother at that time in the neighbourhood, I was invited by my old friend to spend a few days with them, and never can I forget the impression made upon my mind, by their conversation, their plan of life, the habits of self-denial it included, the great objects they had constantly in view, and the admirable means they adopted to secure the attainment of them. This was probably the more striking, from the circumstance of my having been for some time, after the death of my father, in the family of some distant relations of my mother's, who lived in great splendour, but whose

characters were in every respect the very reverse of those I was now contemplating. How often was I not ready in secret to exclaim, with the widowed daughter of Naomi, " where ye live, there would I live ; your God shall be my God ; where ye die, there would I die ; and there also would I be buried."

In Mr. Lindsey were united the most amiable temper, the most unaffected humility, thinking nothing of himself and his own various attainments ; the most ardent piety, and unbounded generosity and benevolence : qualities which were rendered still more attractive by his having been early introduced, immediately on his leaving college, to the most cultivated and highly polished society of that day, in the family of the Duke of Somerset ; possessing as he did the rare talent of extracting the pure gold without any mixture of the base alloy of pride, ambition, self-indulgence, or the vain love of pomp and grandeur. A train of adverse circumstances, together with his great generosity to an only sister, had deprived Mr. Lindsey of his paternal patrimony. At that time, therefore, they had little more than the produce of the living, about £300 per ann. with the addition of a comfortable house and garden, in a cheerful airy situation, without rent or taxes. Here then, the strict economy of both, and the extraordinary talents of my friend in her domestic arrangements, were qualities of first importance. During the remaining nine years that they continued at Catterick, I was their frequent and highly privileged visitor. Mrs. Lindsey had an apothecary's shop ; a good assortment of medical books and considerable acuteness in the discrimination of disease ; to the poor, therefore, she was a skilful physician, not only supplying and preparing medicines

for their relief, but generally administering them in person ; and I remember, when frequently witnessing as I did, her extraordinary success, I was wont to exclaim, " How should I exult if I had your knowledge and could thus apply it," she would calmly answer, " Exult, you would have no reason ; do you not think that if it were the will of God these poor persons should recover, he could easily have employed other means of equal efficacy, without my feeble agency ?"

They established a sort of Sunday school ; the children of the poor, and some of the farmers' servants were divided into classes, and had such religious instruction imparted to them, on the Sunday afternoon and evening, as was deemed suitable to their respective ages and attainments, Mrs. Lindsey taking the younger, and Mr. Lindsey taking the elder classes. They were rewarded, according to their proficiency, with Testaments, Bibles, Prayer Books, Pilgrim's Progress, the Life of God in the Soul of Man, and many other religious books, wholly at the expence of their patron and patroness. But these were not the only instances of their bounty. Not a case of individual distress occurred which they did not endeavour to alleviate, if they could not wholly relieve. Will it be inquired, how charities so extensive could be accomplished with resources so extremely limited ? I would reply, that the habitual self-denial of the shepherd of the flock, who desired nothing for himself but the simplest fare, aided by their keeping very early hours, seeing little company, and the admirable family arrangements of Mrs. Lindsey, whose two domestics, (one man and one maid,) moved as it were by clock-work ; aided further by her own personal activity and domestic knowledge, not only supplied the

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power of doing all this, but the house, the garden, and the adjoining premises and church-yard, which had been previously planted with ornamental trees, and adorned with woodbines, laburnums, roses and jessamines, were kept with such perfect neatness, that the whole appearance was that of cheerfulness and comfort, approaching somewhat to taste and elegance. The late Mr. Mason, so highly appreciated as a poet, and who had been an intimate college companion of Mr. Lindsey's, on making them a visit was much struck with this, and was disposed to celebrate my friend as a perfect model for the wife of a country clergyman.

But this was not the field, admirable as were her labours in it, where the singular talents of Mrs. Lindsey, and her strict adherence to principle, were most conspicuous. Far from ever urging her exemplary husband to accept of the splendid offers of great church preferment, which were made to him from time to time by the Northumberland and Huntingdon families, one of which offers in particular, would have led immediately to an Irish bishoprick, she entered fully into the views which compelled his refusal: and when, on his recovery from a violent rheumatic fever, in which he had continued twenty successive nights without sleep, and in which she had nursed him with an activity and judgment peculiarly her own, he said to her, that one thing only had disturbed his mind, the delinquency, as he had deemed it, of continuing to minister in a church so far removed from gospel simplicity—"Then relinquish it," was her noble reply; "our wants are not many, and, in some way or other, the Providence of God will enable us to supply them." At that time or soon after, the resolution of retiring from

the church was taken, although it was not put in execution till nearly two years after, owing to some peculiar circumstances, which this is not the place to detail. They continued, however, to make gradual preparation, but not by diminishing their usual charities, or withholding other acts of kindness, in which their whole income was usually expended; so far otherwise, indeed, that during the last year, the small-pox having been very fatal in that district, they incurred the additional expence of inoculating all the children of the poor in their own large village, and in the neighbouring hamlets, most of whom Mrs. Lindsey attended in person, and with so much success, that she did not lose a single patient.

I shall not here attempt to detail the various results of this magnanimous resolution, the effect of an elevation of mind so exceedingly uncommon, more especially as I hope the time is not distant when the whole transaction, together with its important consequences, will be presented to the public by a much abler pen. I must not, however, omit saying, that every necessary preparation for the intended sale of furniture, plate and china, to defray the expence of their removal and to supply the means of present subsistence, to which their own very small private property was quite unequal, (being merely the interest of four or five hundred pounds settled upon Mrs. Lindsey,) was made by herself with the greatest alacrity and cheerfulness. I was at Catterick when Mr. Lindsey preached his farewell sermon from Acts xx. 32. and an equally affecting scene I never witnessed. I remained there till within a few days of their final departure, and a letter now in my possession from Mrs. Lindsey, written during that interval, dated Sunday evening, part of which I shall transcribe, will

give the most accurate idea of the state of mind in which she performed her part of their arduous duty.

" This day is over, and my husband's presence made me as happy as I can be among this sorrowing people. Surely these impressions which arise from affection and gratitude, cannot all die, and wholly miss of their first and best destination, the Author of all good, O! that they may know and love him, through his poor creatures, and have his favour for ever! John's grief," (their man-servant,) " like Mr. B.'s, was native, but stronger as his ties were : eight years indulgence, and the habits consequent to be destroyed, or nearly so, by removing to new scenes; and on such an occasion, where no little resentments which so commonly cause removals and reconcile the mind to other places, stepped in to abate the sorrow. I am persuaded he will often be your visitor to inquire about us. Poor M. T., how she saddened me! She is perfectly stupefied with grief. I have said and done all I can to reconcile her. We had no letter today but from Mr. Mason; I imagine all our more distant friends suppose we are gone. Two days more will accomplish this painful removal, and send us into the wide world again: but if the great Governor do but go with us, we shall have nothing to fear."

On their finally bidding adieu to Catterick, so much had the tone of my mind been raised by witnessing their magnanimity and courage, that it was not till I saw them drive away in the chaise which was to convey them on their doubtful pilgrimage, that I felt the full pressure of what I was about to suffer. In vain did I look around for comfort; friends and companions like these were no where to be found; and the world appeared to my afflicted spirit like one vast

dreary wilderness. But I am wandering from my purpose, which is simply to demonstrate, from a few striking facts, that my friend was no ordinary proficient in the school of her sainted confessor; but like him, was ready to relinquish ease, independence, popular esteem, and even the power of being useful to others, when put in competition with the paramount duty of strict integrity in the sight of God, as the only means of obtaining his favour.

After they took up their abode in London, Mrs. Lindsey did not relinquish her former habits of great activity and extensive usefulness. Among their numerous circle of friends, acquaintance, or other connections, there was not a sick couch that she did not visit, or a sorrowing family to whom she did not endeavour to administer consolation and advice; and so eminent were her services in this way, possessing as she did the singular talent of always suggesting the best means of attaining the desired end, and of going directly to the point most effectual to promote it, that her influence, under circumstances in themselves wholly adverse to her possessing it, was universal and truly astonishing.

The first great work in which she engaged, was planning Essex Chapel, and the house of the minister adjoining; daily superintending the various workmen employed in the building, and contriving how to make the most of the small allotted space; and I believe it will be admitted, that there are few professional architects who could more completely have succeeded in their object. For some years after they first went to London, they had a small lodging in Featherstone buildings, Holborn, without a servant, and were under the necessity of exerting the most rigid economy. At

length, however, when the worship in Essex-street was established; when, after some years, an uncle of Mrs. Lindsey's had left them for their joint lives, a considerable income; and eventually, when several of Mr. Lindsey's friends, who admired and loved him, had bequeathed him considerable legacies; as they never expended much upon themselves, or materially altered their mode of living, they were enabled once more to extend pecuniary relief in various ways, to numbers of persons, on a very extensive scale; and to gratify their benevolence still further, by forwarding every charitable or useful undertaking;—such more especially as had a tendency to promote the great cause of scriptural truth, and holiness of life and conversation.

To the surrounding poor they were also constant and daily benefactors, and if labouring under disease, and that Mrs. Lindsey was unable to visit them herself, she was wont to bespeak the kindness and to call in the medical aid of her brother, Dr. Blackburne, who had generally a long string of her poor pensioners upon his list. Need I add, "that the blessing of those who were ready to perish came upon them," and that the tears of the orphan and widow will long bedew their hallowed graves.

I do not know that Mrs. Lindsey ever wrote any thing beyond the keeping up for many years a very numerous and extensive correspondence. She particularly excelled in the use of terms most appropriate to express her meaning; in the discrimination and acuteness of her remarks; in seizing upon the prominent traits in the character she meant to delineate, or in the event she designed to relate, and above all, in the art of condensing her subject. Her sketches, like those of a master,

were real portraits. It was her particular wish in many instances that her letters should be destroyed, and therefore I do not think myself at liberty to give more than an extract or two from the very few I have remaining, by way of specimen, and as serving to justify the character I have given of them above.

Speaking of a particular friend of theirs whose faculties had been deranged by a stroke of apoplexy, she says,

"What a thousand embarrassments beset our worthy old friends by the calamitous state of their brother and all his complicated affairs! Not one thing can they do, or receive a penny of his, without taking out a statute of lunacy, and that at present they cannot think right, hoping that he may recover his faculties, a thing contrary to all experience, when the disorganization of the brain has been so severe. Yet even under this awful business, good is visible; it has arrested our three amiable young men, (his nephews,) in their eager pursuit after the deceitful allurements of this transitory world, in which this poor weeping imbecile was enveloped, with all the previous requisites of a totally opposite character: scoffed out of his belief by an infidel partner, his first strong and tender affections broken and diverted from their proper course, which he felt and lamented, but had not principle sufficient to remedy. How many hours of fruitless persuasion have we spent upon him! He loved us very much, and admired a virtue he felt visionary, but defective. He has often said to his youngest sister, "Oh! such a woman as Mrs. Lindsey would have done every thing for me, in a wife." I wish ardently there may be any power left to recal him, in the solitude and restraint he is under, and which he understands perfectly, and

submits to with tears; when seen occasionally by one of the young men; but never inquires after his sisters or us: he has got a great attachment to a child who belongs to the house, who often amuses him, and whom he wants to buy, that he may never part with him. But enough of this melancholy story, with profound gratitude for a more favourable lot."

Speaking of Dr. Priestley's farewell visit, previous to his going to America, she says,

"On Sunday the 6th," (April, 1794,) "he came to us, and attended the morning service. Mr. Toulmin, of Taunton," (now Dr. Toulmin, of Birmingham,) "happened to preach; and a more suitable sermon could not have been made on purpose, being composed under the impressions he had felt from the state of things—his own persecution, and his son's being driven with his wife and four children to America last year. He is an excellent preacher; has pathetic tones like Mr. Lindsey; the chapel was quite crowded, (as Dr. Priestley had said he should be there if the ship did not sail till Saturday, which was expected,) and a very affecting scene it was; every body felt it on one ground or other. My station was between two placid men, who bear with composure the events of life; the one just twenty years ago, beginning this worship, attended by the other, to be near if disaster had happened: witnesses to truth above the common rate, then both silenced, one from age, the other from open persecution, never more to be seen together till the resurrection. Mrs. Lee was completely overset; indeed, if it had not been a communion day, so that above half were gone out before, Dr. Priestley would not have got away down stairs till dinner time. The two friends were in such good health and spirits, soothing every

body with good hopes of a future happy issue, that it was quite animating: nor are these the occasions under which my spirits sink, so that we passed a short and cheerful dinner-time; after which, the Doctor walked to Hackney to his wife, and to inquire how Mr. Belsham had gone through his first sermon. There was a chance of seeing him again on Monday, but an express called them to the ship early in the morning. Mr. Toulmin's sermon is printing, with one he preached here a few Sundays before: very good both, but his manner and voice were the most impressive."

Speaking of the same eminent person, in a letter written in 1803, seven years after, she says,

"By a letter from Dr. Priestley, he is in tolerable health, and very busy with some new and useful small publications. When finished, he says, he shall retire with thankfulness to close a happy life. Very few would feel thus after such a variety of severe trials, and in exile, but he can see only good under the Divine government."

My deceased friend was habitually influenced by a deep sense of the power, the wisdom, and the goodness of God; and by a firm belief, that all things will work together for good, both in life and in death, to those who sincerely desire to do his will as revealed in the gospel of Christ; and she had all the zeal, the ardour, and the courage of a reformer; whenever an opportunity occurred of lending her aid in promoting the great cause, that of the strict unity of God, as taught in the Scriptures of both the Old and New Testaments, to which the life of her most exemplary husband had so long been devoted. She was far from being elated by the uncommon tribute paid to her talents, and to that extraordinary energy of mind, which enabled

her to become a general benefactress to her relations and friends, and to many others variously connected. The following account of herself, drawn it will be confessed with no flattering pen, extracted from a letter written in the year 1797, will sufficiently prove and establish this.

" You have a thousand pleasant visions and gratifications belonging to your temper, of which I am quite incapable, from my irritable frame, sadly increased by early impressions, in which pleasure was not an ingredient: duty and necessity have made me do some right things; nobody would love me, if they knew me as I know myself, and therefore I never thought they did it much, and did not wonder at it. I have been more of a useful than loveable creature, from meaning well, and taking pains to do what was allotted to me. This is not a good picture of your friend's mind, but it is a true one. My chief happiness has arisen from an union with one of the best, gentlest, and most indulgent of human beings, and being employed in doing the rough work in the important station to which he was called, and which kept me from the world and its temptations, which ought to have made me better: but I have not caught his spirit, owing to the discordant particles of which I am composed.—I wish they may end with this corruptible body."

Nor was this an insulated feeling; it was her usual strain whenever she spoke or wrote of herself. I shall give one more short specimen from a letter, dated the 29th of Sept. 1806.

" I begin to address you on this memorable day, which 46 years ago began the career of my distinguished happy destiny, marked throughout with advantages for virtue, and the Divine favour, if my own insensibility to it had not defeated the means more than it ought:

yet I would hope so much good has been acquired as to lay the foundation of going forward hereafter, and may finally end in joy unspeakable."

Where is the heart so cold, as to read this without involuntarily exclaiming, Amen, so be it? Yes, my friend, thy painful struggles with a highly nervous irritable system, are now all over—they are vanished like the deepening shades of night, on the glorious approach of a summer's morning. Our separation probably will not be long, and when, "in some nobler mansion of our father's house" we meet again, how transcendent will be the transformation!

" The change will come: this active mind, To earth's dark scenes no more confin'd, Shall burst the chains with glad surprize, And in the Saviour's image rise."

For the last four or five years, Mrs. Lindsey's health and active powers were visibly declining, and when I last saw her, in the September of 1808, her constitutional nervous irritability was painfully increased, heightened no doubt by extreme anxiety for her angelic husband, who had suffered repeated slight paralytic attacks, and was calmly approaching the last month of his earthly pilgrimage; his composed benign countenance seeming to say, " All the days of mine appointed time will I wait, until my change come." She continued, however, her wonted exertions for the relief of the poor, and especially of the diseased poor, who are usually very numerous in the little narrow lanes and alleys of the Essex-street neighbourhood. Petitions of various sorts were almost daily pouring in; the medical skill of Dr. Blackburne was in constant requisition for their relief, and his prescriptions were sent to an eminent druggist, and made up at the expense

of their generous benefactress. The last letter I received from her, seven weeks ago, was dated on the 18th of December, and it has obtained with me a kind of sanctity as being her last letter. It is short, but written in her usual manner, containing many affectionate expressions of esteem and regard. "You, I know," she says, "will be kind to me, whether I write or not."

On Monday (Jan. 13th) a party of her particular friends drank tea with her, and she appeared much as usual; they were struck, however, on taking leave, with the fervent manner in which she prayed that God would bless them; "as if," says Mr. Frend, "she had a kind of pre-  
sage of her approaching dissolution." On Tuesday evening she had a slight paralytic seizure, which deprived her, the next day, of the use of speech: and the pressure on the brain increasing she gradually sunk into a state of insensibility, without pain or suffering of any kind, until Saturday morning the 18th, when she calmly and tranquilly expired. It was her daily prayer that her last sickness might not be long, so as to be a burden to her friends, and her prayer was heard.

Feb. 9, 1812. CATHARINE CAPPE.

*To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.*

IN the address prefixed to the first number of your work, it is expressly stated, that every care had been taken to reject whatever could give just cause of offence to any particular class of readers, and that the conductors will feel themselves obliged to correspondents, who furnish them with hints that may serve to point out errors.

As a friend to the Magazine, I avail myself of the invitation, to point out what appears to me, not only an error, but a deviation from the above excellent rule,

In the 43d number of the magazine, and in that part of the political retrospect, where the petition of Protestants in favour of Roman Catholics is treated of, it is said, "where prejudices are sincere, how mistaken soever they may be, the right of private judgment is to be respected, and every allowance made for difference of opinion; but for timidity and venality the same excuse cannot be admitted."

This is immediately followed by a note, in which timidity and venality is applied to the Quakers, and a censure thrown on their society, as if they were particularly influenced in their declining to sign the petition, by unworthy motives, and a single instance of a person who signed it, being blamed by some others for having done so, is brought forward as a proof of the *tyranny of the sect*, exercised over the right of private judgment.

I would not willingly charge the author of the note, with intentional misrepresentation, but it certainly has the appearance of a considerable degree of prejudice, thus to draw a censure on the whole society from such a circumstance, and hold them up to public view as a people too selfish to regard the liberties of others, where their own interest was not concerned, and too unfriendly to the Roman Catholics to afford them any assistance to obtain what they claim as their right.

To quote what may possibly have been said by an individual, in such a way, as to convey an idea that it was the language and sentiment of the society, is not consistent with that regard to impartiality that ever ought to accompany the remarks of a liberal critic. If some of the Quakers refused to sign the petition, or were forward in censuring those who did, so, it was no more than has been the case amongst